Preservation Lab - Examination and Treatment Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database ID</th>
<th>Treatment ID</th>
<th>Item Record</th>
<th>Date received in Pres.</th>
<th>Conservator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>765</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>i22790160</td>
<td>1/23/2013</td>
<td>Kathy Lechuga &amp; Ashleigh Schieszer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Department**
Classics Library

**Call Number**
Z114 .C46 v.1

**Title**
Paléographie des classiques latins

**Author**

**DESCRIPTION:**

**General Remarks**
Since treatment duration spanned from the end of Kathy Lechuga's tenure and the beginning of Ashleigh Schieszer's, the treatment plan and supervision is a collaborative evolving effort. This volume is being treated in conjunction with V.2.

**Binding**
This is a half leather binding bound in black leather with gray cloth boards.

**Textblock**
Undecorated text block edges. Sewn onto four recessed cords. The textblock folios are created from single sheets that are attached together at the gutter with paper hinges/guards.

**Primary Support**
The textblock is composed of two sections. The first section is a narrative prose printed on wove machine made paper, while the 2nd section is an antique laid light beige paper containing printed plates.

**Medium**
Black printed ink.

**Attachments | Inserts**
There is a book plate pasted to the inside upper board.

**Housing**
No prior housing.

**CONDITION:**

**Summary**
This oversized binding contains brittle clay coated paper in the upper section that is torn and extremely fragile. It contains previous binding and paper repairs that are failing. In its current state, it cannot be safely handled.
Binding
Overall, the binding is dirty. Additionally, the leather is suffering from red rot. The leather is especially weak along the joints. The edges of the boards are worn from use which is has caused the cloth to fray at the head, tail, and fore edge. The cloth is scuffed all over.

Textblock
The textblock is in severe condition. It is dirty and extremely friable with numerous tears, breaks, and losses throughout. The sewing is broken and no longer functions well. Many of the tears and breaks have been repaired with numerous campaigns of clear tape. The second section of the textblock contains printed plates that are in fair condition. Overall, the paper contains surface dirt. Many of the leaves contain fingerprints, and a majority of the folios are broken at the fold.

Primary Support
The first section of wove machine made paper has darkened from a light beige to a brown color. It appears to be clay coated. The second section of paper is has slightly darkened overall, most likely from a white to a light beige color.

Medium
The printed ink in the upper section appears stable, however much of the printed text contains pressure sensitive tape. The printed plates in the lower section are in excellent condition.

Housing

Housing Narrative
N/A

Attachments | Inserts
There is a cloth hinge at the last signature.

Previous Treatment
This binding has previously undergone conservation treatment in more than one form. There are many tears in the upper section of paper that have been repaired with a clear tape containing an adhesive that is water soluble (possibly a Filmoplast-like tape). Secondly, losses along the gutter in some leaf margins have been repaired by in-filling with a thick antique laid paper. While aesthetically similar in color, the repair tissues are much thicker than the text leaves. Additionally, the first gathering of the book has been oversewn and then sewn into the binding. The book appears to have been re-cased with non-contemporary acidic endsheets and a cloth hollow tube.

Materials Analysis
Test One:
The clear tape’s adhesive used to repair the paper tears was tested for solvent solubility. In an inconspicuous area, a cotton swab dampened with filtered water was rolled over the surface of the tape. The adhesive was inspected to see if it had softened after 15 seconds by mechanically inserting a spatula below the tape carrier. Results: The tape adhesive was found to be readily soluble with water.

Test Two:
The printed and handwritten inks were tested for water solubility with a water droplet test. In an inconspicuous area, a 1 mm water droplet was applied by brush to the ink and allowed to sit for 5 seconds, and then the water was blotted away with a blotter. The blotter was inspected to see if any black media transferred. If after 5 seconds there was no transfer, the media was tested again by letting the water droplet
sit for 15 seconds and then again if nothing transferred for 30 seconds. Results for printed ink: No media transfer even after 30 seconds.

**TREATMENT:**

**Proposal**

Recommended Treatment:
1. Surface clean overall, especially in areas determined for washing.
2. Disbind. Remove the bookplate from the pastedown and retain for re-attachment in the new binding.
3. Remove the spine linings and adhesive from the textblock.
4. Remove the sewing from the textblock.
5. In the lower section of paper, locally remove clear tape with humidification and moisture.
6. Wash the upper section to de-acidify and remove previous damaging repairs and water-soluble tape.
7. Repair tears throughout the textblock with a thin tissue that does not obscure the text.
9. Cut new endsheets slightly larger than the textblock using paper similar in paper tone, texture and thickness to the textblock paper. Cut four total folios so they can be sewn to the textblock in gatherings of two folios.
10. Guards the plates to protect the brittle folds from becoming torn along the fold by the sewing thread during rebinding.
11. Sew the textblock onto four cloth tape supports using the original sewing holes as much as possible. Use free paper guards as necessary to protect the leaves and sew on new endsheets.
12. Gently shape the spine in the job backer. Line the spine of the textblock with a first layer of wheat starch paste and kozo tissue, a second layer of cotton cloth and PVA, and a third layer of Dove Gray paper and PVA.
13. Create flanges to insert inside the boards from the cloth lining and endsheets using PVA.
14. Insert the boards into a library style split board binding.
15. Construct a corrugated clamshell to house the original binding with the newly repaired binding.

**Housing Need**

Corrugated clamshell

**Factors Influencing Treatment**

This treatment was a collaborative lab project that required extensive treatment due to its extremely poor condition, severe damage due to taped repairs, and large size. Volume one and two received the same treatment in concert to maintain cohesiveness throughout the set. There are other copies of these books owned by the UC Classics Library that are better condition, however these books required interventional treatment to make them usable. They are extremely valuable to the library and are used heavily. Extensive treatment was carried out primarily by the conservation technicians with direct instruction and supervision by the lab conservator.

Since the textblock consists of an extremely poor quality paper only in the first upper gatherings, the upper portion will be washed to de-acidify and remove prior repairs while the rest of the textblock containing printed plates will not be washed. The brittle leaves will most likely be encapsulated and rebound into a separate binding, rather than encapsulating and boxing as individual plates, in order to prevent the plates from becoming disorganized or lost since these are a desk charged books.

**Performed Treatment**

The binding consists of two different types of paper in vastly disparate conditions; therefore, the two sections were treated and bound separately from one other, but housed together in the same box.
1. The book was disbound. First the spine linings were removed with a methyl cellulose poultice and with spatulas. The sewing was cut and boards were detached from the textblock. The bookplate was mechanically lifted from the pastedown and retained. [JE, 1.5 hrs]

2. The disbound leaves were surface cleaned overall with Absorbene soot sponges and white vinyl Staedtler erasers. [JE, 5.5 hrs]

3. Many of the folios were adhered together from previous repairs and were mechanically separated from each other. The upper portion of folios consisting of text were extremely brittle and were separated from the plates printed on good quality paper. The brittle folios of text were interleaved with Hollytex in preparation for washing to remove water soluble damaging prior repairs. [JE, 10 min]

Upper Text Leaves:

4. To reduce acidity and remove prior repairs, the leaves were washed in filtered water in a total of four baths for a combined total of 3 hours. Repairs were mechanically removed with spatulas and tweezers while the leaves were washed. Many of the previous repairs consisted of extremely thick, non-sympathetic papers that were also covered in tape. These were all removed during washing which exposed many large areas of loss. The final bath was buffered to pH 8 with calcium hydroxide to impart an alkaline buffer within the paper. [JE, CF, AS, 8.9 hours; JE,CF 1 hr]

5. The washed leaves were then sized with a 0.4% solution of methyl cellulose A15C and air dried on drying racks. [JE, 30 min]

6. After sizing, the leaves were slightly cockled and required flattening. The leaves were misted overall with filtered water until relaxed and then were flattened in a pressing stack between Hollytex and blotters over the weekend. [JE, 2 hours; CF 50 min]

7. Tears in the leaves were repaired with Tengujo tissue and wheat starch paste. Large areas of loss were stabilized with a single layer of toned Uso Mino kozo tissue and wheat starch paste. Because the leaves are to be encapsulated, the losses were not fully filled since they would be supported between sheets of Mylar. Tissue was toned prior to repair with Liquitex and Golden Acrylics. [VS, 16.75 hrs; CV, 22 hrs]

8. Polyester sleeves were welded into folios using Hollytex guards so they could be rebound by sewing. The leaves were encapsulated into the polyester folios using an ultrasonic welder. A total of 10 folios were created. [LB, 2hrs 40 min]

9. The encapsulated text was non-adhesively bound separate from the stronger plate leaves. Five gatherings of two polyester folios were sewn into a cloth covered binding with 18/3 linen thread using a modified long stitch structure with a cloth covered spine. In this case, rather than sewing the folios into an integral sewing structure, each gathering was sewn separately into the binding with a 5-hole pamphlet stitch. Sewing the gatherings separately is and advantage if treatment is needed in the future since the entire binding would not have to be rebound. This unique structure was inspired by Gabrielle Fox’s Full Leather Over an Exposed Spine structure. The binding was covered in quarter cloth using Canapetta and Cialux cloth adhered with PVA to binder’s board. A black hot stamped spine label was stamped onto Dove Gray paper and adhered to the spine with Jade 403 PVA. [CV, 3.5 hrs; JE, 30 min]

Lower plate leaves:

10. The lower section of leaves consisting of plates printed on good quality paper were re-guarded along the gutter folds with Filmoplast R heat set tissue [4 hrs].

11. The plates were bound into a new split board library binding with new endsheets constructed out of machine made Dove Gray buffered paper. The leaves were sewn all along with 18/3 linen thread onto 4 linen tapes with a French link stitch. The plates were quarter bound into boards covered with Canapetta and Cialux cloth adhered with Jade 403 PVA [JE, 14.75 hrs].

12. The split board binding’s spine label was hot stamped in black onto Dove Gray paper and adhered in place with PVA [JE, 30 min].

**Housing Provided**
Corrugated clamshell

Housing Narrative
Corrugated clamshells were constructed to house the two new bindings together in one box. The box was constructed out of archival buffered corrugated board and PVA. Ethafoam plank supports were attached with 3M double stick tape. [CV, 2 hrs]

Storage Recommendations and Handling notes
The text and plates are now able to be safely used by scholars. Additionally, the text and plates can now be used simultaneously since they are now bound separately into new covers.

TOTAL Treatment Time
87 hours